

Message Text

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ORIGIN OPIC-06

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DRAFTED BY OPIC/F GWILLIAMS
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AID/AFR/CAWA:RNICHOLSON
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

UNCLAS STATE 208156

FROM OPIC

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EFIN

SUBJECT: AGRIBUSINESS

1. OPIC HAS RECEIVED LETTER FROM A. K. ASEM, PRESIDENT OF
AWUDOME INDUSTRIAL FARMING AND MARKETING COOPERATIVE SOCIETY
LTD., P.O. BOX 6, TSITO AWUDOME, ALSO P.O. BOX M167 ACCRA.

2. THE LETTER REQUESTS OPIC HELP FIND AN INVESTOR TO JOIN
WITH THEM TO IMPLEMENT "ON A TURNKEY BASIS" AN INTEGRATED
SUGAR BASED INDUSTRY. THE COOPERATIVE HAS A NUCLEUS FARM
OF 200 ACRES AND MEMBERS WILL BE ENCOURAGED AND ASSISTED TO
DEVELOP INDIVIDUALLY OWNED SMALL SATELLITE FARMS WITHIN FIVE
MILE RADIUS SO THAT THESE INDIVIDUAL FARMERS AND THE
COOPERATIVE WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE 600 ACRES OF SUGAR CANE
FOR PROCESSING. FIFTY ACRES ARE NOW PLANTED TO SUGAR CANE,
AND THEY HAVE INSTALLED A SMALL MILL CAPABLE OF CRUSHING 20
TONS PER EIGHT-HOUR DAY. WHILE THIS PRODUCES ONLY SYRUP THE
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COOPERATIVE HOPES IN THE EXPANDED PROJECT TO PRODUCE WHITE
SUGAR AND NON-ALCOHOLIC FOODS SUCH AS TOFFEE AND OTHER
SWEETS.

3. OPIC, ADVISED BY AN INDEPENDENT SOURCE THAT THIS GROUP
IS REPUTABLE, WILLING TO HELP ACHIEVE THIS COOPERATIVE'S
OBJECTIVES. BECAUSE OPIC HAS NO FIELD STAFF AND ITS

PROGRAMS ARE GEARED TO U.S. ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE FOREIGN INVESTMENT CAPABILITIES, WHAT IS NEEDED IS AN INITIAL APPRAISAL OF THIS COOPERATIVE SOCIETY AND ITS BASIC ABILITY TO IMPLEMENT AND CARRY OUT THE PROGRAM IT HAS IN MIND. HAS IT BEEN THOUGHT THROUGH CAREFULLY? IS IT PRACTICAL? DO THEY HAVE THE FINANCIAL ASSETS AND MANAGERIAL CAPACITY TO MAKE IT SUCCESSFUL? WHAT FOREIGN PARTICIPATION IS NECESSARY AND CAN THE PROJECT AFFORD IT? RONALD NICHOLSON, AID WASHINGTON, HAS SUGGESTED THAT AID MISSION OFFICER, ARROYO-RIESTRA, IS UNIQUELY QUALIFIED TO MAKE THIS KIND OF INITIAL APPRAISAL AND TO SUGGEST FAIRLY PRECISE OPTIONS WHICH THE COOPERATIVE SHOULD PURSUE IF AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IS WHAT'S NEEDED AND CAN BE ACHIEVED.

4. OPIC WOULD APPRECIATE SUCH ASSISTANCE FROM ARROYO-RIESTRA IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. VANCE

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